

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DISTRICT
AT CLEVELAND**

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY,

Plaintiff,

v.

**Case No. 1:23-cv-1850
Judge David A. Ruiz**

MIGUEL CARDONA, *in His Official Capacity
as the Secretary of the United States Department
of Education,*

Defendant.

JOINT STATUS REPORT

Pursuant to this Court’s Order dated April 9, 2025 (ECF No. 26), Plaintiff Ashland University (“AU”) and Defendant the United States Department of Education (“Department”) submit this Joint Status Report regarding Defendant’s prior request to stay proceedings.

1. Following the Court’s April 9, 2025 Order, the parties convened to discuss resolution of the matters concerning the September 16, 2022, Final Program Review Determination (“FPRD”) issued by the Department’s Chicago/Denver School Participation Division and potential settlement of this suit.
2. On May 1, 2025, the parties reached a potential agreement as to a voluntary settlement in full accord and satisfaction of the matters related to this suit.
3. One issue remains before the settlement can be finalized—whether AU’s current Pell Grant rewarding policies comply with Pell Grant regulations. The Department needs additional time to conduct a review of this issue.
4. As a settlement is very close to being reached, the parties jointly request that the Department’s deadline to file its Brief in Opposition be stayed while the parties resolve

- this final issue and execute the Settlement Agreement, at which time the parties will notify the Court that the Settlement Agreement has been executed and AU will move this Court for a dismissal of this suit consistent with the Settlement Agreement terms.
5. If a settlement is not reached and a dismissal is not filed within 30 days of this report, the parties will submit a second joint status report to inform the Court of the status of the settlement negotiations.

Respectfully submitted this 9th day of June, 2025.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
By Counsel,

/s/ Rema A. Ina
Rema A. Ina, Esq.
Ruchi V. Asher, Esq.
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Northern District of Ohio
801 West Superior Avenue, Suite 400
Cleveland, OH 44113
rema.ina@usdoj.gov
ruchi.asher@usdoj.gov

ASHLAND UNIVERSITY
By Counsel,

/s/ John Kevin West
John Kevin West, Esq.
STEPTOE & JOHNSON PLLC
Huntington Center, Suite 2200
41 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
Telephone: (614) 458-9889
Facsimile: (614) 221-0952
kevin.west@steptoe-johnson.com

James H. Newberry, Jr., Esq.
Kalynn G. Walls, Esq.
STEPTOE & JOHNSON PLLC
700 North Hurstbourne Parkway, Suite 115
Louisville, KY 40222
Telephone: (502) 423-2000
Facsimile: (502) 423-2001
kalynn.walls@steptoe-johnson.com
jim.newberry@steptoe-johnson.com

Jeffrey K. Phillips, Esq.
STEPTOE & JOHNSON PLLC
100 West Main Street, Suite 400
Lexington, KY 40507
Telephone: (859) 219-8210
Facsimile: (859) 219-8201
jeff.phillips@steptoe-johnson.com

